

# CGS NEWS

*The Glory Be* | Ordinary Time Lessons | Independence in CGS

## ORDINARY TIME

### Level I Lessons

- + Altar I, II, and III
- + Liturgical Colors
- + The Liturgical Calendar
- + Sign of the Cross

### Level II Lessons

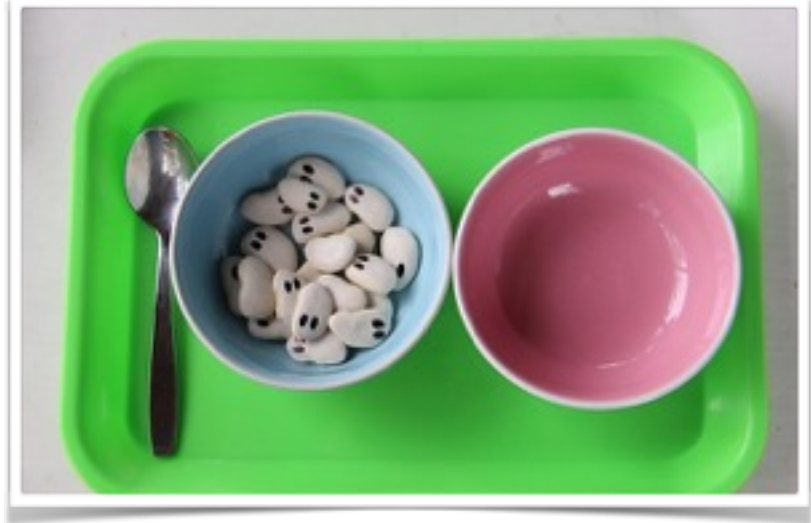
- + True Vine Bible Study
- + Altar Nomenclature
- + Church Tours
- + The History of God's Gifts
- + The Books of the Bible

### Level III Lessons

- + The History of the Jewish People
- + Vocation of the Prophets
- + The Bible and the Parousia
- + The History of the Jewish

### What's the Parousia?

**Parousia** is a Greek word that was used by St. Paul to describe the time when God will "be all in all" at Jesus's second coming and fulfillment.



## Spooning in Sunday School?

The goal of Montessori education is simple: to lead children to greater levels of independence. In the Atrium that takes a variety of forms, but the goal is the same, that our children can practice their faith in a Catholic way on their own.

In the Level I atrium this independence is gained in three ways. First, the children build their motor skills through practical life materials like spooning or pouring. These lessons give them the physical tools used in other lessons about the Catholic faith.

After gaining the necessary motor skills, the children have the freedom to work independently with the materials in the Atrium. Each material is designed to help the children either learn the signs and symbols used of Catholic culture or to reflect on key stories about Jesus's life.

The work of the child helps them to acquire the Christian faith and culture, but also can lead them to prayer. This is the final



## A Prayer for Home

One of St. Ignatius's mottos was *ad majorem dei gloriam*, which means "For the greater glory of God". Jesuits like to abbreviate this as AMDG. The emphasis that the motto puts on glorifying God has made the "Glory Be" a much loved and used prayer in Jesuit communities. As we celebrate Thanksgiving and the end of the Church year, this is a great prayer to use at home with our children.

*Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now,  
and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen.*

As a family, try ending your day by listing anything that happened for which you're grateful, then concluding by praying a "Glory Be" together.

## Advent begins on Sunday, November 27

level of independence in the Atrium. Through the materials of the Atrium, the children are led to their own, personal expression of prayer: thanking God, asking God for things they need, or just reflecting on God's wonderful mystery.

### *Social and Intellectual Independence*

In Levels II and III, independence shifts from physical to social and intellectual. Social independence is heavily dependent upon morality, so the elementary student begins to reflect on the moral teachings of Jesus (stories like the Good Samaritan). These lessons give them Christian context for right and wrong, allowing them to use Jesus's teachings as they explore how they treat one another. They learn, through Jesus's teachings, how to judge right and wrong independent of adult guidance.

The children also gain independence by acquiring skills to use the Bible effectively for learning and reflection. Our first, second, and third grade students start to explore the structure of the Bible, learning about the various types of books it contains, while also starting to look up verses and passages for themselves.

Level III is a deepening of Level II, so the students have further study of sacred scripture. Specifically, this fall, they are looking at the prophets of the Old Testament and the vocation of a prophet to the Jewish community. In Level I, we taught the children that prophets "listen to God and tell others what they heard."

Through the in-depth study of Level III, the children hear for themselves God's prophetic message and are given the freedom to determine it's relevance today.

### *Spiritual Independence*

Independence in Montessori education is all about supporting the child in their pursuit of a unique social and intellectual life, but in CGS we also hope that the work provides our students with spiritual independence. Our goal is always to lead the children to prayer and a deeper relationship with Jesus and the Church. For the child, spiritual independence is both physical (Level I), social and intellectual (Levels II and III).